

The Cuyahoga Valley Explorer

photo courtesy of Troy Russell

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Trail Crews

A Workout on the Old Carriage Trail by Dave Daams

Five of us volunteers were gathered at the Station Road parking lot on the morning of December 9th, wondering what sort of trail work we could do on that cold day. There was an inch or two of snow on the ground and the ground itself was at least partially frozen.

Gene, Wemmer, the Adopt-A-Trail leader for the Old Carriage Trail, mentioned that there were some unsightly logs that needed to be moved away from the trail. So we started off, glad to get moving and get our blood circulating after standing in the cold.

There was plenty of work to do. The National Park Service tree crews had left many cut logs by the trail over the past couple of years. We went to work carrying or rolling these logs away from the trail.

We were warmed up soon enough! To no one's surprise, Bill O'Brien joined us at lunchtime.

There were also a few large trees that had fallen across the trail. We worked with the axe blade of a Pulaski and a saw and removed them, saving the NPS crews considerable work. When we finished the trail, it was after 3:00 o'clock and we had all had quite a workout.

The Old Carriage Trail didn't have a "hemmed-in" look anymore, so we were quite satisfied too.

Cuyahoga Valley Trail Council Explores Northeast Portage County

by
Dave Daams

Eleven members of the Cuyahoga Valley Trail Council gathered at Eagle Creek State Nature Preserve on January 20. It was a typical winter day and we toured the preserve on foot trails. We hiked through woods and flood plain forest and past several wetlands.

A prominent feature of the area, besides Eagle Creek, is a large swamp. Beavers have dammed a large pond and there are also sphagnum bogs nearby. An old stone foundation on higher ground is evidence of some earlier use of the land.

We stopped to eat lunch at a small wildlife observation tower on the edge of the beaver pond.

Eagle Creek is a tributary of the Mahoning River, which it flows into just west of Warren. Directly upstream from the preserve is the town of Garrettsville.

After we returned to our cars, two of our group had had enough outdoor exposure for the day and headed for home. The rest of us decided to visit Nelson Ledges State Park, which is only a few miles away.

Nelson Ledges is an extensive formation of ledges and crevasses and is a major geological point of interest for northern Ohio. Most of us had been to Nelson Ledges before, but each visit seems to offer a new experience. Some of the ledges are quite high, and the passageways between the rock formations are like a maze. Mike Brittain directed us to a couple of waterfalls that I had forgotten existed.

Our group split up and got separated from each other very easily because we are more adventurous than others. In the end, we came together again and I'm happy to report that we found everyone in good condition.



Eagle Creek Nature Preserve (Photo by Bill O'Brien)